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ABRAMS' METHOD OF TREAT-
MENT IN ANEURYSMS.

BY

ALBERT ABRAMS, A.M., M.D., LL.D.,
SAN FRANCISCO.

REPRINTED FROM
THE
MEDICAL RECORD
September 26, 1914

WILLIAM WOOD & COMPANY
NEW YORK.

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ABRAMS' METHOD OF TREATMENT IN ANEURYSMS.

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THE writer believing that this method of treatment is deserving of more consideration than has been accorded to it wishes to present additional data bearing on the subject.

When his first article was submitted to the editors of several medical journals it was rejected for the reason that it was tantamount to a violation of tradition to attempt treatment of an incurable (sic) affection by the simple method proposed. The *MEDICAL RECORD*, ignoring the attitude of the formalist and traditionalist, published the writer's primary contribution¹ on the subject.

Since this time, the writer has reported in the *British Medical Journal*² and *La Presse Médicale*³ forty cases in his own practice of thoracic and abdominal aneurysm symptomatically cured within a few weeks by the concussion treatment with absolutely no other adjuvant measure, not even rest.

The cases were all advanced and many of them have been seen after a period varying from two to five years without any recurrence of symptoms. Other physicians have reported in the journals and through correspondence equally good results.

The writer has cited the details of his treatment

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elsewhere, notably in his work on "Spondylotherapy" (5th edition), MEDICAL RECORD⁴ and in "International Clinics."⁵

To eliminate the personal equation the writer wishes to direct attention to a few additional observations made by other physicians. In a masterly and exhaustive monograph⁶ by the Minerbis of Italy, the value of the aortic reflexes has been corroborated. The elicitation of the aortic reflex of contraction is the essential object achieved by the concussion method of treatment.

Dr. C. B. Kohlhausen of New Mexico, in his report of an advanced case of aneurysm of the thoracic aorta treated by Abrams' method says as follows: "After the first treatment, lasting ten minutes, I was utterly amazed at the change in the condition of the patient and after six days all his symptoms had disappeared and he was symptomatically well."

Dr. M. L. H. Arnold Snow⁶ presents a series of pictures showing variations in volume of an aneurysm superinduced by elicitation of the aortic reflex of contraction.

This writer comments as follows: "These changes induced by vibration have been previously only studied clinically, so far as I know. They are here put on record, with remarks on the interpretation of the skiagrams." Skiagraphic records of the aortic reflexes have been previously made by Dr. George Jarvis and the writer.⁷

Dr. Snow's report may be briefly summarized: The patient's skiagram showed an immense aneurysm and the skiagrams taken before and after treatment demonstrated conclusively that an aortic aneurysm could be contracted by elicitation of the aortic reflex of contraction. Dr. Snow concludes

that the marked relief afforded the patient by the method of Abrams was additional clinical evidence of a reduction in the dimensions of the aneurysm.

Dr. Isaac Robinson, Toledo, Ohio, presents his own anamnesis as follows: "Age 62. No specific history. While surgeon of the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1897 my voice became husky and so continued. In addition to the dysphonia, pains developed in the chest and there was paroxysmal dyspnea. Numerous diagnoses were made by many physicians, but it was not until 15 years after the inception of my trouble that a correct diagnosis of thoracic aneurysm was made by aid of the Roentgen rays. At this time my symptoms were accentuated and it was impossible to lie on either side for a minute at a time. The pains became so intense that recourse was had to narcotic medication. After the first treatment by Abrams' method morphine was discontinued. After several weeks' treatment practically all the symptoms have subsided and the voice is nearly normal. When treatment was commenced the aneurysm projected at least three inches beyond the thoracic surface. At the present time of writing it projects about one-half inch."

Dr. Robert Houlié, Paris, France, presented to the Société de Médecine^s a patient with aneurysm of the thoracic aorta who was treated by Abrams' method. Absolutely no results were achieved by different methods of treatment until the concussion method was instituted. The results were surprisingly rapid. "After three treatments the patient was practically transformed; the violent pains have evanesced, the pulsations have diminished, the patient can lie in any position without inconvenience and his dyspnea has lost its intensity. The physical signs also show great amelioration."

Dr. B. E. Witte, San Antonio, Texas, reports the following cases of aneurysm of the abdominal aorta which simulated gastric lesions: "Female, 42 years, suffered for three months from persistent emesis, hematemesis and violent abdominal pains. A diagnosis of *ulcus ventriculi* was made and a laparotomy was performed. The operation revealed a large aneurysm of the abdominal aorta. After recovery from the operation I executed treatment according to the method of Abrams. After three *séances* vomiting and hematemesis ceased, and at the present time of writing the patient is symptomatically cured. Another patient, a barber, was likewise laparotomized for a supposititious gastric ulcer. Here the operation likewise demonstrated an aneurysm of the abdominal aorta. Concussion treatment at the seventh cervical spine resulted in a subsidence of the symptoms and the patient was enabled to resume his occupation."

Dr. George O. Jarvis, Ashland, Ore., reports the following cases: Aneurysm of the subclavian artery. The diagnosis in this case was substantiated by six physicians. Abrams' treatment for aneurysm conducted daily for a period of one month was followed by the evanescence of all subjective signs, the heart and aorta within the normal boundaries and the disappearance of the swelling, pulsations, and bruit over the affected artery. X-ray plates demonstrated no signs of an aneurysm. Aneurysm of the thoracic aorta and abdominal aorta. The aortic arch was dilated and measured 20 cm. in its transverse diameter. The abdominal aorta likewise showed decided dilatation with aneurysmal thrill and murmur. Morphine was necessary to relieve the severe pains of the patient. Four weeks after Abrams' treatment was

commenced the patient, who was bed-ridden, was able to walk two or three miles daily. Eventually morphine was discontinued absolutely and there was a disappearance of all subjective symptoms. Dr. W. W. Britt, Tonawanda, N. Y., recently reported a patient with aortic aneurysm who was practically rescued "from his deathbed" by this method of treatment.

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A Weekly Journal of Medicine and Surgery

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51 Fifth Avenue, New York

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